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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical area of concern, poverty

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991, 47/197 of 22 December 1992, 48/184 of 21 December 1993 and 49/110 of 19 December 1994 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995 on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, as well as all the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990, in particular the World Summit for Children, held in New York in September 1990, and the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995,

Reaffirming, General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 on the follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on poverty, 1/

Recognizing that the eradication of poverty requires the full and equal participation of women, in particular in the formulation and implementation of policies that affect them, so as to enable them to become genuine partners in development,

Emphasizing that empowering women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, since women constitute the majority of people living in poverty, and since they contribute to the economy and to combating poverty through their work at home, in the community and in the workplace,

Recognizing that more women than men live in absolute poverty and the imbalance is on the increase, resulting in their limited access to income, resources, education, health care, nutrition, shelter and safe water in all developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries,

Bearing in mind that the increasing number of women living in poverty in developing countries, especially in the rural areas and urban slums, requires the urgent action of the international community and the adoption of concrete actions and measures at the national and regional levels towards the eradication of poverty within the framework of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 2/ adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Stressing the necessity of promoting and implementing policies to create a supportive international economic environment, through, inter alia, alleviation of the external debt burden and the negative impact of structural adjustment programmes, through mobilization and/or the provision of new and additional financial resources that are both adequate and predictable, and by ensuring equitable terms of trade and increased access of women in developing countries to markets, productive investments and technologies,

1. Recognizes the central role that women play in the eradication of poverty, and recommends their full and equal participation in the formulation and implementation of policies that affect them so as to enable them to become genuine partners in development;

2. Recognizes also that the eradication of poverty is both a complex and a multidimensional problem and fundamental to reinforcing equality, peace and development;

3. Urges all Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and civil society to implement the Platform for Action in its entirety;

1/ E/CN.6/1996/CRP.3.

2/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

4. Recommends that in order to attain the goals of eradicating the feminization of poverty as set out in the Platform for Action, 3/ the following actions, inter alia, be undertaken:

(a) Development and implementation of education, training and retraining policies for women and girls;

(b) Promotion and protection of women's rights to full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies;

(c) Promotion of the participation of women at all levels of decision-making;

(d) Mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design of policies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

(e) Development of national strategies for promoting employment and self-employment, including entrepreneurial and organizational skills in order to generate income for women;

(f) Adoption of policies to ensure that all women have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, maternity, child-bearing, widowhood, disability and old age;

(g) Development of gender-based methodologies and conducting of research to address the contribution of women to the economy, the feminization of poverty and the economic and social impact of debt and structural adjustment programmes in all developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries;

(h) Reduction, as appropriate, of excessive military expenditures and investments for arms production and acquisition, consistent with national security requirements, in order to increase resources for social and economic development;

5. Calls for the urgent implementation of the outcome of all other major United Nations conferences and summits related to the eradication of poverty;

6. Calls upon States to undertake commitments 2 and 5 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, 4/ and calls upon all relevant international actors to implement promptly the actions for the eradication of poverty, as contained in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; 5/

3/ Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, chap. IV, sect. A.

4/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

5/ Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, chap. II.

7. Stresses that the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, should play a central role in enhancing financial and technical support and assistance for developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, particularly the goal of the eradication of the feminization of poverty;

8. Stresses the importance of using all available funding sources and mechanisms, with a view to contributing towards the goal of poverty eradication and targeting women living in poverty;

9. Invites all countries, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, other relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and all other sectors to contribute to the implementation of programmes aimed at eradicating poverty;

10. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council, when considering the theme "Coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication" at its substantive session for 1996, ensure that the relevant organs of the United Nations system take fully into account the gender perspective in their activities for the eradication of poverty, and requests the Council to recommend to the General Assembly that the gender dimension of poverty be incorporated into the plan of action of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution in the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to keep in mind the poverty dimension in the implementation and review of reports on all other critical areas of concern set out in the Platform for Action, taking into consideration the many links between the eradication of poverty and the other critical areas of concern.